

NORTH CAROLINA'S PUBLIC SCHOOL EXPENDITURES ABOVE 1% FOR 2009-10

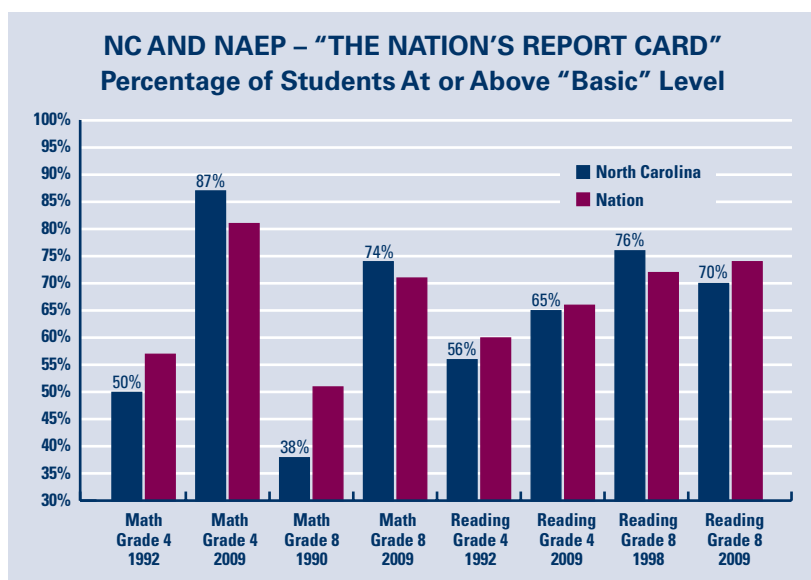
Line Item	Dollars	% of Total Budget
Classroom Teachers	\$ 3,902,985,390	51.38%
Students with Special Needs	\$ 695,739,178	9.16%
Teacher Assistants	\$ 512,650,092	6.75%
Instructional Support	\$ 449,370,019	5.92%
Career and Technical Education	\$ 391,851,545	5.16%
Transportation	\$ 380,803,623	5.01%
School Building Administration	\$ 324,312,146	4.27%
At-Risk Students	\$ 228,498,496	3.01%
Low-Wealth Districts	\$ 209,601,229	2.76%
Central Office Administration	\$ 107,418,117	1.41%
Classroom Supplies/Equipment	\$ 88,238,683	1.16%
Limited English Proficient Students	\$ 77,567,529	1.02%
Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding	\$ 76,945,365	1.01%
Total		98.02%

Additional cuts will require teacher layoffs, increasing class sizes, fewer middle school and high school electives and sports, fewer programs to help at-risk students, fewer summer programs, fewer supplementary breakfasts, and so on. Another 6,073 state-paid teacher positions may be eliminated.

Where does the public schools' money go?

Ultimately, the money goes to benefit the state's students and schools and the results show.

Overall, North Carolina students have made tremendous gains in reading and math achievement. Today, almost three-quarters to nearly 90% of North Carolina's 4th and 8th graders are testing at the "Basic" or above level on national math NAEP tests, compared to only half or less who were performing at that level in the early 1990s. North Carolina's students were performing below the national average in math in the 1990s and are now performing above the national average.



Reading gains for the state's 4th graders are significant. However, 8th graders, once performing in reading at above the national average, are now slightly below the national average. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is a national test taken by a representative sample of 4th and 8th graders in each state every other year. NAEP reports the percentage of students at three levels: Basic, Proficient, and Advanced. The "Basic" level is similar to North Carolina's proficient level on its end-of-grade tests.